

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claim 19 is added by the present response. No new matter is believed to be added.¹ Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,622,266 to Goddard et al. (herein "Goddard") in view of U.S. patent 7,031,009 to McCarthy, Jr. (herein "McCarthy").

Addressing first the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response. Claim 7 is amended to now more clearly refer to "a first controller" and "a second controller", to clarify the antecedent basis for each term therein. The amendments to claim 7 are believed to address the rejection thereto under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goddard in view of McCarthy, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 1 positively recites that an image processing apparatus includes two elements, namely "a thumbnail image data generating device" and "an electronic mail transmitting device". The feature of a single image processing apparatus including both such elements is believed to clearly distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

Goddard is directed to a method for specifying a printer alert processing, and particularly being able to send notifications of different types of alerts to different recipients. In that respect Goddard discloses different printers 106, 108, 110, 112, and 114 each connected to a data processing system 118, and the data processing system 118 in turn connected to an e-mail server 218. Goddard differs from the claims in that Goddard does not disclose or suggest that any of the noted image processing apparatuses 106, 108, 110, 112, or

¹ Applicant submits new claim 19 is supported for example by the original specification at page 6, line 21 et seq.

114 includes the e-mail server 218. That is, in Goddard the e-mail server 218 is not part of an image processing apparatus.

In contrast to Goddard, for example in independent claim 1, the image processing apparatus itself includes the “electronic mail transmitting device”. Goddard does not disclose or suggest that feature as in Goddard no image processing apparatus includes the e-mail server 218.

Moreover, McCarthy can not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Goddard. In that respect, as clearly shown for example in Figure 1, McCarthy discloses an image processing apparatus 20 connected to an external e-mail server 28. Again in McCarthy, similarly to Goddard, no image processing apparatus includes an electronic mail transmitting device.

In such ways, McCarthy can not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Goddard.

Moreover, in independent claim 1 the image processing apparatus additionally includes “a thumbnail image data generating device”. To meet that claim limitation the outstanding rejection cites McCarthy at the Abstract and at column 1, lines 31-59. In reply, applicant notes McCarthy does not disclose or suggest that the image processing apparatus 20 itself includes such a thumbnail image data generating device. Instead, in McCarthy other elements including the scan server 22, repository manager 24, metadata acquisition service 26, and e-mail server 28 appear to provide the thumbnail image data generating operation. Each of those elements 22-28 in McCarthy is not part of the image processing apparatus 20.

Thereby, McCarthy is further deficient in McCarthy does not disclose or suggest an image processing apparatus additionally including “a thumbnail image data generating device” as recited in independent claim 1.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicant respectfully submits independent claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

Moreover, independent claims 4 and 13 recite similar limitations as in independent claim 1 noted above, and are thereby similarly allowable over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

Independent claims 7, 10, and 16 also recite similar limitations as in independent claim 1 noted above, and thereby are also allowable over Goddard in view of McCarthy for the above-noted reasons. Moreover, independent claims 7, 10, and 16 are even more specific in requiring an image processing apparatus “connected to a network”, and further reciting “requesting a job by the network”. Applicant submits such a further feature further distinguishes over Goddard in view of McCarthy. With such a further claimed feature, a user can remotely request the job and can be automatically notified of a job process via an e-mail including thumbnail image data. Goddard in view of McCarthy further fail to disclose or suggest such features. Thereby, independent claims 7, 10, and 16, and the claims dependent therefrom, even further distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

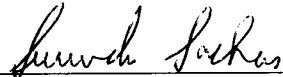
The present response also adds new dependent claim 19 for examination that further recites “wherein said user code is transmitted together with the job request from the user via the network”. According to such a claim feature, a user can input a user code, see for example Figure 6, and that user code is transmitted together with the job request from the user via the network. Such a further feature is believed to also be neither taught nor suggested by Goddard in view of McCarthy, and thus dependent claim 19 is believed to further distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

In view of the present response applicant respectfully submits claims 1-19 as written patentably distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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